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**A.R.2 AMENDED BELLWETHER
COMPLAINT**

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18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
19 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
20 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

21 IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
22 PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT
23 LITIGATION

24 Case 3:23-md-03084-CRB

25 MDL No. 3084

26 Honorable Charles R. Breyer

27 JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

28 **FILED UNDER SEAL**

This Document Relates to:

A.R. v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.,
No. 3:24-cv-07821

AMENDED BELLWETHER COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Under PTO 21 (ECF 1950), Plaintiff A.R. [hereafter referred to as A.R.2] files this
Amended Bellwether Complaint against the Defendants named below. Plaintiff incorporates the

1 allegations set out in the Master Long-Form Complaint filed at ECF 269 in *In re: Uber*
 2 *Technologies, Inc., Passenger Sexual Assault Litigation*, No. 23-md-3084 (N.D. Cal.).

3 **I. DESIGNATED FORUM¹**

4 1. Identify the Federal District Court in which the Plaintiff would have filed in the
 5 absence of direct filing: Northern District of California.

6 **II. IDENTIFICATION OF PARTIES**

7 **A. PLAINTIFF**

8 2. *Injured Plaintiff*: Name of the individual sexually assaulted, battered, harassed,
 9 and/or otherwise attacked by an Uber driver with whom they were paired while using the Uber
 10 platform: A.R.2

11 3. At the time of the filing of this Amended Bellwether Complaint, Plaintiff resides
 12 at: Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

13 **B. DEFENDANT(S)**

14 4. Plaintiff names the following Defendants in this action.

15 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.;²

16 RASIER, LLC;³

17 RASIER-CA, LLC.⁴

18 **C. RIDE INFORMATION**

19 5. Plaintiff was sexually assaulted, harassed, battered, and/or otherwise attacked by
 20 an Uber driver in connection with an Uber ride in San Francisco County, California on August
 21 10, 2023.

22 6. The driver goes by Michael Le. His legal name is Hung Quang Le.

23 7. Plaintiff was the owner of the Uber account used to request the relevant ride.

26 ¹ See PTO No. 6, at II(C) (ECF 177).

27 ² Delaware corporation with a principal place of business in California.

28 ³ Delaware corporation with a principal place of business in California.

⁴ Delaware corporation with a principal place of business in California.

1 8. When the driver arrived, he asked if Plaintiff wanted to sit in the front. Plaintiff did
 2 so.

3 9. Partway through the ride, the driver used Uber's Driver App to indicate that the
 4 ride had ended.

5 10. Plaintiff was worried but stayed calm to avoid provoking the driver.

6 11. The driver drove about 3 or 4 blocks down the road and pulled over.

7 12. The location where the driver pulled over was about 1.6 miles from Plaintiff's
 8 requested destination.

9 13. The driver then reached over and kissed Plaintiff on the lips twice.

10 14. Plaintiff unlocked the door, exited the vehicle, and called a friend to come pick her
 11 up.

12 15. Mr. Le had applied to be an Uber driver on July 22, 2022.

13 16. Uber had onboarded Mr. Le as a driver on July 25, 2022.

14 17. When Uber onboarded Mr. Le to drive for Uber, Mr. Le had a criminal record.

15 18. Mr. Le was found guilty of forgery in 1996.

16 19. Mr. Le was found guilty of speeding, improper lane changing, and failure to
 17 maintain control of his vehicle in 1996.

18 20. Mr. Le pled guilty to assault, kidnapping, and illegal use of a weapon in 1998. He
 19 served one year of jail time.

20 21. In 2009, Mr. Le was ticketed for speeding.

21 22. In 2012, he was indicted for felony aggravated assault of a family member, as well
 22 as invasive visual recording. During the pendency of the case, a restraining order was granted
 23 against Mr. Le. The case was subsequently dismissed.

24 23. In 2015, a domestic violence prevention case was filed against Mr. Le, and a
 25 restraining order was entered against him.

26 24. In 2016, another domestic violence prevention case was filed against Mr. Le, and a
 27 restraining order was entered against him.

28

1 25. Before Plaintiff was assaulted, Uber received at least one report of sexual
 2 misconduct concerning Mr. Le.

3 26. On June 18, 2023, a rider reported to Uber, in Chinese, that the vehicle felt unsafe.
 4 When prompted, in Chinese, with the question, "Why did the vehicle feel unsafe" she responded
 5 with one word (in English): "rapist."

6 27. Uber responded to the June 18, 2023 sexual misconduct report with a request, in
 7 English, for more information. In a separate message, it asked the rider, in Chinese, if she still
 8 needed help with her lost property report. It otherwise did not act on her report. It did not try to
 9 call the rider. It did not interview the driver. It did not review GPS data.

10 28. The conduct described in the Master Long-Form Complaint and herein was a
 11 substantial factor in causing Plaintiff to suffer economic and non-economic harm.

12 **III. CAUSES OF ACTION ASSERTED**

13 29. The following Causes of Action asserted in the Master Long-Form Complaint,
 14 including all allegations in support, are adopted in this Amended Bellwether Complaint by
 15 reference:

16 Check if 17 Applicable	18 Cause of 19 Action 20 Number	21 Cause of Action
22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I	CLAIM B - NEGLIGENCE (excluding entrustment theory)
23 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II	CLAIM C - FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION
24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	III	CLAIM E - COMMON CARRIER'S NON-DELEGABLE DUTY TO 25 PROVIDE SAFE TRANSPORTATION
26 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VI	CLAIM G.1 - VICARIOUS LIABILITY- EMPLOYEE
27 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VI	CLAIM G.2 - VICARIOUS LIABILITY- APPARENT AGENCY
28 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII	CLAIM G.3 - VICARIOUS LIABILITY-RATIFICATION
29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VIII	CLAIM H - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT
30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IX	CLAIM H - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – FAILURE TO 31 WARN
32 <input type="checkbox"/>	X	CLAIM H - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – PRODUCTS 33 LIABILITY ACTS

34 **IV. ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF VICARIOUS LIABILITY 35 CLAIMS**

36 30. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants are vicariously liable for the following intentional
 37 torts committed by the driver in addition to being vicariously liable for the driver's negligence.

1 31. **Assault.** The driver acted intending to cause harmful or offensive contact. Plaintiff
 2 reasonably believed that she was about to be touched in a harmful or an offensive manner.
 3 Alternatively, the driver threatened to touch Plaintiff in a harmful or an offensive manner. It
 4 reasonably appeared to Plaintiff that driver was about to carry out the threat. Plaintiff did not
 5 consent to the driver's conduct. Plaintiff was harmed.

6 32. **Battery.** The driver touched Plaintiff with the intent to harm or offend her.
 7 Plaintiff did not consent to the touching. Plaintiff was harmed and offended by the driver's
 8 conduct. A reasonable person in Plaintiff's situation would have been offended by the touching.

9 33. **False Imprisonment.** The driver intentionally deprived Plaintiff of her freedom of
 10 movement by use of force, threats of force, and menace. The restraint compelled Plaintiff to stay
 11 somewhere for some appreciable time. Plaintiff did not knowingly or voluntarily consent.
 12 Plaintiff was harmed.

13 **V. ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FRAUD AND**
 14 **MISREPRESENTATION CLAIM**

15 34. When ordering Uber rides, Plaintiff regularly looked at messages Uber conveyed
 16 about the driver, including the driver's identity, the driver's photo, and the driver's "star rating."

17 35. Indeed, the App makes it exceedingly difficult to order an Uber, identify the
 18 vehicle, and enter the car without seeing messages Uber conveys through the App, to every
 19 passenger, about the driver, including the driver's identity, the driver's photo, and the driver's
 20 "star rating."

21 36. If a passenger ordered a ride, and then never again looked at the App, she would
 22 have no way of knowing when a driver was selected, when the driver would arrive, or what car he
 23 was driving.

24 37. In fact, the App prompts passengers to look at the App after they order the ride,
 25 including specifically the messages regarding the driver, by sending notifications when a driver is
 26 selected, when the driver is nearby, and when the driver has arrived.

27

28

1 38. In communicating to Plaintiff about the driver, Uber did not disclose any
 2 information about Mr. Le's criminal background nor the previous rider report of driver
 3 misconduct described above.

4 39. The concealed information was in Uber's possession and not otherwise available
 5 to Plaintiff.

6 40. Uber's failure to disclose Mr. Le's criminal background, and its failure to disclose
 7 the rider report of misconduct, made the information it conveyed about the driver materially
 8 incomplete.

9 41. Had Plaintiff known about Mr. Le's criminal background or the rider report of
 10 misconduct, she would not have taken the Uber ride.

11 **VI. ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION CLAIM**

12 42. Uber did not deactivate Mr. Le, even after Plaintiff filed a lawsuit on November 8,
 13 2024.

14 **VII. ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF PRODUCTS LIABILITY**
 15 **CLAIMS**

16 43. **Safe Ride Matching.** Uber had the capability to, and did, [REDACTED]
 17 [REDACTED]
 18 [REDACTED]
 19 [REDACTED]

20 44. At all relevant times, the Uber App automatically collected data on [REDACTED]
 21 [REDACTED]
 22 [REDACTED]. Uber had the capability to use data [REDACTED]
 23 [REDACTED]
 24 [REDACTED]
 25 [REDACTED]
 26 [REDACTED]

1 45. Uber was aware that [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] To that end, Uber [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 46. Uber could have, but did not, [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 47. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 48. Uber's failure to a [REDACTED]

17 fact that Uber [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] Had Uber [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 49. Had [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] Plaintiff would not have been sexually assaulted.

24 50. Alternatively, the Uber App should have warned Plaintiff [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] a high risk of sexual assault.

26 51. **Gender Matching.** The Uber App was in a defective condition unreasonably

27 dangerous to users or consumers, including Plaintiff, because the Uber app was designed with an

28

1 algorithm that matched female passengers with male drivers and had no modification to allow
 2 female passengers the option to be matched only with female drivers.

3 52. Uber tracks the rates of sexual misconduct and assault committed by its drivers
 4 against its passengers and collects data on the gender of the driver and passenger involved in
 5 those incidents. At all relevant times, Uber was aware that the risk of sexual misconduct or
 6 assault is greater during Uber rides in which the driver is male and the passenger is female, like
 7 the ride between the driver and Plaintiff. The risk of sexual assault associated with such pairings,
 8 while known to Uber based on its internal data collection and analysis, was beyond that
 9 contemplated by the ordinary user or consumer.

10 53. Uber could have, but did not, modify its matching algorithm on the backend to
 11 give female passengers the option to select female drivers. Such a modification is feasible
 12 because Uber has made such modifications in markets outside of the United States, such as Saudi
 13 Arabia. Uber has not modified the code of the matching algorithm on the backend for the version
 14 of the Uber App available in the United States market to allow for female Uber passengers,
 15 including Plaintiff, to choose gender-matched rides.

16 54. Uber knew that a gender-matching option would have prevented assaults like the
 17 one suffered by Plaintiff.

18 55. Had a gender-matching functionality been available, Plaintiff would have toggled
 19 it on for the ride in question.

20 56. Use of the gender-matching option would have prevented her assault by her male
 21 driver because Plaintiff never would have been in the car with this driver had a gender matching
 22 functionality been toggled on and would, instead, have been paired with an entirely different
 23 person.

24 57. **App-Based Ride Recording.** The Uber App was defective in its design because it
 25 could have been, but was not, designed to trigger automatic video recording of rides and the time
 26 period immediately around them, whether through using the camera already installed on a
 27 driver's cell phone during Uber trips, or through an external device linked to the App.

28

1 58. The presence of cameras serves a deterrent function that significantly reduces and
2 prevents sexual assault and misconduct. Even the potential for a ride to be recorded serves a
3 deterrent function that significantly reduces and prevents sexual assault and misconduct.

4 59. Uber is aware that the presence of cameras serves as a deterrent function that can
5 and does significantly reduce sexual assault and sexual misconduct and, to that end, has explored
6 the use of recording functionalities for the Uber App. But these recording functionalities (even if
7 they were available during Plaintiffs' ride) are inadequately designed to address sexual assault or
8 sexual misconduct committed by drivers against passengers.

9 60. For example, Uber developers modified the code of the Uber App on the back end
10 to allow in-app video recording by the driver. That is, when toggled on by the driver, this
11 functionality allowed drivers to record internal footage of Uber trips using their phone's camera
12 as a dash camera.

13 61. In addition to making the feature optional, rather than automatic, Uber coded its
14 in-app video recording functionality so that all recordings are encrypted in the Uber App and
15 locally stored on the driver's cell phone, meaning that recordings cannot be obtained by Uber, law
16 enforcement, or any third party without the express authorization of the driver.

17 62. The result is that in-app video recording does not have any deterrent effect on
18 sexual assault or sexual misconduct by drivers against passengers because drivers exercise
19 absolute control over whether recording happens, and because drivers know that, even if the
20 technology is on, third parties cannot access the recordings.

21 63. Had the Uber App included automatic video monitoring of rides, by definition that
22 feature would have been engaged on Plaintiff's ride.

23 64. Automatic video monitoring would have deterred the driver from assaulting
24 Plaintiff.

25 65. **GPS Route Discrepancy Alerts.** Using its own internal data, Uber was aware at
26 all relevant times that the risk of sexual assault or sexual misconduct was greatest when a driver
27 goes off route, when a driver stops for an unusual amount of time, or when the driver and rider
28 stay in proximity after a ride has concluded. The increased risk of sexual assault associated with

1 these route deviations as well as the prevalence of their occurrence, were risks beyond that
 2 contemplated by the ordinary user or consumer, who lacked access to Uber's internal data or
 3 analytics.

4 66. The Uber App is designed to receive, track, and monitor GPS data from riders and
 5 drivers at all times while using the Uber App. Uber monitors GPS data from both driver and rider
 6 phones. Specifically, while in use, the Uber App ingests GPS location information and telematics
 7 data from driver and rider phones, which its algorithm uses to Uber uses these data to, for
 8 example, automatically direct the driver to the rider's location, and monitor the speed, braking,
 9 and other driving maneuvers, as well as to predict route times.

10 67. The data Uber collects give it the capability to detect when a ride has deviated
 11 from the expected route, including when a driver goes off route, when a driver stops for an
 12 unusual amount of time, or when the driver and rider stay in proximity after a ride has concluded.

13 68. Uber could have, and should have, designed the App to use the GPS technology
 14 that it already built into the app to automatically trigger safety alerts in the event of route
 15 deviations, unusually long stops, or excessive time spent with a passenger at the beginning or end
 16 of a route.

17 69. An appropriately-designed GPS Alert feature would have flagged Plaintiff's ride
 18 due to the driver terminating the ride early via the Driver App and/or stopping on the side of the
 19 road at a location other than the destination.

20 70. An appropriately-designed GPS Alert function would have prevented or lessened
 21 the severity of Plaintiff's assault, including by deterring the driver from engaging in the assault in
 22 the first place or summoning an intervention.

23 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment against Defendants for economic
 24 and non-economic compensatory and punitive and exemplary damages, together with interest,
 25 costs of suit, attorneys' fees, and all such other relief as the Court deems proper. At this time,
 26 Plaintiff does not seek injunctive relief, but reserves all rights to later seek such relief as
 27 appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(b)(2) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c).

28

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all claims in this action.

Dated: March 14, 2025

/s/ Rachel B. Abrams

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FILER'S ATTESTATION

I am the ECF User whose ID and password are being used to file this document. In compliance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I attest that the signatory above has concurred in this filing.

Dated: March 14, 2025

By: /s/ Annie M. Wanless
Annie M. Wanless